to waive inter-connectivity charges for e-Governance applications for e-Seva and other Government projects, in view of BSNL having raised a demand for payment of additional inter-connection charges in addition to leased lines cost by which e-Seva services would be adversely affected and functioning of e-Seva by Andhra Pradesh Government would become economically unviable;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) It was not possible for BSNL to agree to the request of Andhra Pradesh Government.

(c) Inter connection Charges are statutory charges and cannot be waived off. Further, any concession in leased line cost has to be across the board and BSNL did not find it feasible.

Upgradation of post offices in Tamil Nadu

3215. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATHCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in Tamil Nadu proposed to be upgraded during this financial year, location-wise; and

(b) the number out of the above on which work has already been completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No target has been fixed for upgradation of Post Offices in Tamil Nadu during this financial year.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Shortage of staff in Post Offices

3216. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of clerical staff, postmen and other junior supporting staff in the post offices in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, the cadre-wise sanctioned and actual strength of the above mentioned categories of staff as on the 1st November, 2005; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to fill the vacant posts expeditiously so as to ensure that the people visiting post offices do not have to stand in queues for unduly long hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) A post becomes available due to retirement, death, promotion etc. and its filling up takes place as per recruitment rules and administrative instructions. This is a continuous process.

The cadre-wise sanctioned strength and actual strength as on 1.11.2005 is an under:

Cadre	Sanctioned strength	Actual strength
Postal Assistant	2986	2644
Postman	2464	2260
Group 'D'	1332	1231
TOTAL:	6782	6135

(c) Action as per rules has already been initiated to fill up the vacant posts. Department has introduced technology and computerization in front offices in all head post offices and major sub post offices to provide expeditious, fast and reliable service which has also reduced the waiting time at the counters.

'TRAI' directions to CDMA operators

3217. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Regulator TRAI have received complaints for disconnection of telephones by CDMA operators even when the payments are made regularly by the subscribers;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by TRAI to warn the CDMA operators for harassment to subscribers?